

# Wabash Plain Dealer

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 14, 2019

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Pulse  
of Wabash

## Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

## Band to perform at Eagle's Lodge

Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge No. 549 will host a performance of the Undercover band from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Nov. 15 at 140 Walter St. Attendees must be 18 years or older to attend. There is no cost.

## Kokomo day trip planned for next month

The North Manchester Historical Society and Shepherd's Center are sponsoring a day trip to Kokomo Opalescent Glass, Celebrations Event Center and Seiberling Mansion on Thursday, Dec. 12. The cost of the day trip is \$72 and includes luxury coach, both tours, lunch, and any tips and taxes. Please RSVP by Nov. 15. For detailed information contact Bernie Ferringer, tour coordinator, by mail at 314 Sunset Drive, North Manchester, IN 46962; by email at bernievicki@gmail.com; or by phone at 260-982-8734.

## Manchester University offers 'Curious Incident' play

Manchester University Theater presents "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time," at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15 and Saturday, Nov. 16, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17 in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus. General admission is \$10; it is \$7 for students and senior citizens; and free for MU faculty, staff and students.

## Downtown Night to Remember planned

The following schedule of events had been released for Friday, Nov. 15: 4 to 9 p.m., Holiday Open Houses and Map Stamping; 6:30 to 7 p.m., The Lighting of the Courthouse including Santa's arrival; and 7:15 to 9 p.m., Visit with Santa at Wabash City Hall.

## Holiday season officially begins with open house Friday

The holidays have arrived early at the Honeywell Center and will be celebrated

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# Impeachment witness says Trump asked about the Ukraine probes

BY LISA MASCARO  
and MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A top American diplomat revealed new evidence Wednesday of President Donald Trump's efforts to press Ukraine to investigate political rivals as House investigators launched public impeachment hearings for just the fourth time in the nation's history.

William Taylor, the highest-ranking U.S. official in Ukraine, said for the first time that Trump was overheard asking another ambassador about "the investigations" he'd urged Ukraine's leader to conduct one day earlier. Taylor said he learned of Trump's phone call with the ambassador only in recent days.

Republicans retorted that

the Democrats still have no more than second- and third-hand knowledge of allegations that Trump held up millions of dollars in military aid for the Eastern European nation facing Russian aggression. Trump is accused of trying to trade that aid for Ukrainian investigations into former Vice President Joe Biden and the Democratic National Committee.

The hearing, the first on television for the nation to see, provided hours of partisan back-and-forth but so far no singular moment etched in the public consciousness as grounds for removing the 45th president from office. Trump, who was meeting at the White House with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, declared he was "too busy" to watch.

The long day of testimony unfolded partly the way Democrats leading the inquiry wanted: in the somber tones of two career foreign service officers who described confusion both within the U.S. government and in Ukraine about what Trump wanted from Kyiv. Taylor testified alongside George Kent, a

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PHOTOS BY ROB BURGESS / Plain Dealer

**STORIES:** Heidi Lovett, NMPL programming coordinator, left, shares stories Tuesday aboard the Peabody Retirement Community bus.

## 'Intergenerational Storytime' at the NMPL Peabody Retirement Community residents share tales with children

BY ROB BURGESS  
rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com

Holding Tuesday afternoon Storytimes at the North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) isn't anything unusual.

But, this week, the presence of the Peabody Retirement Community bus idling outside the front doors indicated this week would be somewhat different.

That's because Tuesday's event was an "Intergenerational Storytime."

"Several of the residents will be coming to the library ... and our Storytime kids will be getting on the bus with them for a special Storytime," stated Sarah Joy Morbitzer, NMPL children's department head, before the event. "The kids will also get the chance to see some of the equipment on the bus and ask questions about how the bus works and places Peabody residents have traveled."

On the bus itself, attendees were treated to stories read by Heidi Lovett,

NMPL programming coordinator.

Given the location, the choices of "Don't Let the

Pigeon Drive the Bus!" by Mo Willems and "The Wheels on the Bus" were quite appropriate.



**BUS:** The Peabody Retirement Community bus idles Tuesday outside the front doors of the North Manchester Public Library.

# Manchester senior Francois is named Ambassador for Peace

Federation is a nonprofit organization with consultative UN status

BY ANNE GREGORY

Manchester University senior Chris Francois has been named an Ambassador for Peace by the Universal Peace Federation.

The federation is a nonprofit organization with consultative status at the United Nations' Economic and Social Council.

Ambassadors for Peace is a global network of leaders representing the religious, racial and ethnic diversity of the human family, as well as all disciplines of human endeavor. They stand on the common ground of shared

principles, committed to the path of promoting reconciliation, overcoming barriers and building peace.

Ambassadors organize, support or participate in a wide variety of service and relief projects, such as building schools, digging wells or renovating communities in conflict-torn areas.

Francois works with Delice Dental Health Initiative, a nonprofit that has worked since 2015 to improve access to quality dental care in rural and urban Haitian communities. Francois is its co-founder and director of marketing.

At Manchester, Francois is a student assistant at the Peace Studies Institute, president of Amnesty International, founding president and hub coordinator of Sunrise Manchester University, president of the International Association, secretary of the Alpha Mu Gamma Nu Gamma chapter and a resident assistant at Oakwood Hall.

Established by Gladdys Muir in 1948, the Peace Studies Institute and Program in Conflict Resolution at Manchester pioneered as the first undergraduate peace studies program in the world.

Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.



PHOTO PROVIDED

**AMBASSADOR:** Manchester University senior Chris Francois has been named an Ambassador for Peace by the Universal Peace Federation.

## WHS hosts annual College and Career Fair

Nearly 50 colleges, businesses, other groups attended Wednesday

BY ROB BURGESS

rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com

The sixth annual College and Career Fair was held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, according to the Wabash High School (WHS) Guidance Department.

During the event, WHS played host to over 48 colleges, businesses and representatives from other post-high school career options.

"The purpose of this College and Career Fair is to allow WHS students, and students from surrounding school corporations, to gather the necessary tools and information needed to successfully make the next step after their high school graduation," stated the release. "As an Early College High School, WHS is dedicated to providing its students the highest level of curriculum possible while providing them with experiences and opportunities they may not otherwise have the opportunity to explore."

In response to a Plain Dealer request Wednesday, Jeffery R. Galley, WHS assistant principal, provided the following list of organizations which attended:

- Air Force Reserve
- Alexandria School of Scientific Therapeutics
- Ancilla College
- Anderson University
- United States Army
- Aveda Fredric's Institute
- Ball State University
- Indiana Kentucky Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters
- Community Foundation of Wabash County
- Defiance College
- Franklin College
- Goshen College
- Grace College
- Heartland Career Center
- Huntington University
- Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance
- Indiana State University
- Indiana Tech
- Indiana University Kokomo
- Indiana University n Purdue University Indianapolis
- Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana – Wabash
- Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana – Fort Wayne
- Vet Tech Institute at International Business College
- Indiana Wesleyan University
- LIFT Academy
- Manchester University
- United States Marine Corps
- United States Navy
- Ohio Technical College

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**Pending Services**

**Kristie Miller:** 52, of Wabash died at 1:16 am Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne. Services are pending at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

# Google’s health care ambitions now involve patient data

BY RACHEL LERMAN  
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Google announced a partnership with a large U.S. health care system aimed at modernizing its information system and providing new tools for doctors, in the tech giant’s latest foray into the health industry.

Announcement of its arrangement with the Catholic health care system Ascension followed a Wall Street Journal report on Monday that Google had access to thousands of patient health records without doctors’ knowledge.

Both companies stressed that their deal is compliant with federal health-privacy law. Unlike most of the data Google collects on individuals, health data is strictly regulated by the federal government.

Google is providing cloud computing services to Ascension, which operates health centers in 21 states, mostly across the South and Midwest. It is also testing the use of artificial intelligence to examine health records and find patterns that Google says might help doctors and other providers.

Health care providers are increasingly interested in using data to help manage care and keep patients healthy. That might mean relatively simple things like tracking whether someone refills a prescription or something more complex like spotting a worsening medical condition and addressing it before the patient winds up in the hospital.

Health care systems are allowed to share patient information with business partners so long as the partners agree to safeguard the information and use it only in the way it was intended.

“To be clear: under this arrangement, Ascension’s data cannot be used for any other purpose than for providing these services we’re offering under the agreement, and patient data cannot and will not be combined with any Google consumer data,” Google cloud executive Tariq Shaukat wrote in a blog post.

Still, some people are wary of the big tech company having access to sensitive personal information. Google, along with other big tech counterparts including Facebook and Apple, have been under the microscope in the last couple years about how they use – and sometimes misuse – the vast collections of customer data they collect.

This concern was kicked into mainstream view after Facebook’s Cambridge Analytica scandal, in which the social network shared a vast amount of user data, without permission, with a political consultancy once affiliated with President Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign.

It has since touched nearly every corner of the tech industry, where data is key to digital advertising and developing features using customer data.

That concern has not quieted as the companies continue to push into more aspects of consumer life.

Google has been pressing into the health care space in recent months, including an announced deal to buy wearable company Fitbit. The company has also hired several health care executives, hinting at larger health data strategies to come.

Ascension and Google both acknowledged privacy concerns, but say the agreement is compliant with federal law and that health data will be kept secure.

# TRUMP

Continued from A1

deputy assistant secretary at the State Department.

Taylor said his staff recently told him they overheard Trump’s phone call with another diplomat, Ambassador Gordon Sondland, at a restaurant the day after Trump’s July 25 phone call with the new leader of Ukraine that sparked the impeachment investigation. The staffer explained that Sondland had called the president and Trump could be heard asking about “the investigations.” Sondland told the president the Ukrainians were ready to move forward, Taylor testified.

The impeachment inquiry was launched after an anonymous whistleblower’s complaint about Trump’s dealings with Ukraine, including a July phone call in which he urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate unfounded corruption allegations into Biden and Biden’s son – all while the U.S. was holding up U.S. military aid.

At the start, Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the Intelligence Committee, outlined the question at the core of the impeachment inquiry – whether the president used his office for personal political gain.

“The matter is as simple and as terrible as that,” said Schiff of California. “Our answer to these questions will affect not only the future of this presidency but the future of the presidency itself, and what kind of conduct or misconduct the American people may come to expect from their commander in chief.”

# FAIR

Continued from A1

- Plumbers and Steamfitters Local Union 166
- Purdue Polytechnic Kokomo
- Purdue University -Fort Wayne
- Saint Mary’s College
- St. Francis
- Sullivan University
- Summit Salon Academy Kokomo

- Taylor University
- Trine University
- University of Indianapolis
- University of Northwestern Ohio n Automotive
- University of Northwestern Ohio
- University of Northwestern Ohio n Business
- Valparaiso University
- Vincennes University
- Wabash Fire Department
- Wabash Police Department

# Fed’s Powell sees steady growth, signals pause in interest rate cuts

BY CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell indicated Wednesday that the Fed is likely to keep its benchmark short-term interest rate unchanged in the coming months, unless the economy shows signs of worsening.

But for now, in testimony before a congressional panel, Powell expressed optimism about the U.S. economy and said he expects it will grow at a solid pace, though it still faces risks from slower growth overseas and trade tensions.

“Looking ahead, my colleagues and I see a sustained expansion of economic activity, a strong labor market, and inflation near our symmetric 2 percent objective as most likely,” Powell said in testimony before Congress’ Joint Economic Committee.

Fed policymakers are unlikely to cut rates, Powell said, unless the economy slows enough to cause Fed policymakers to make a “material reassessment” of their outlook.

The Fed cut short-term rates last month for the third time this year, to a range of 1.5 percent to 1.75 percent.

“It now looks increasingly likely that the Fed will move to the sidelines for an extended period,” Andrew Hunter, an economist at Capital Economics, a forecasting firm, said.

Powell’s testimony comes a day after President Donald Trump took credit for an “economic boom” and attacked the Fed for not cutting interest rates further. Powell and other Fed officials, however, argue that their rate cuts, by lowering borrowing costs on mortgages and other loans, have spurred home sales and boosted the economy.

Powell was asked about negative interest rates, which Trump also called for Tuesday, and responded that they “would certainly not be appropriate in the current environment.”

Negative rates occur “at times when growth is quite low and inflation is quite low, and you really don’t see that here,” Powell said.

Other Fed officials have also questioned whether cutting rates below zero has actually succeeded in boosting growth in places like Europe and Japan, where central banks have pushed rates into negative territory.

Despite Trump’s attacks, both Republican and Democratic lawmakers took a largely supportive and respectful approach to Powell. Several complimented him for the “Fed Listens” events the central bank has held around the country, which have sought input from a range of groups, including unions and nonprofits, on ways the Fed could update its monetary policy framework.

Powell repeatedly demurred when Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, pressed him on how higher tax rates would affect the economy, including wealth taxes that have been proposed by Democratic presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders.

But Powell did concede, under questioning from Cruz, that a ban on fracking would “not be a good thing for the economy.” Some Democrats have called for a fracking ban over environmental concerns about the controversial method for drilling for oil and gas.

Recent data suggests that growth remains solid if not spectacular. The economy expanded at a 1.9 percent annual rate in the July-September quarter, down from 3.1 percent in the first three

months of the year. The unemployment rate is near a 50-year low of 3.6 percent and hiring is strong enough to potentially push the rate even lower.

Inflation, according to the Fed’s preferred gauge, is just 1.3 percent, though it has been held down in recent months by lower energy costs and most Fed officials expect it to move higher in the coming months.

Yet Powell reiterated that higher tariffs from the Trump administration’s trade war with China and uncertainty over potential future duties have caused many businesses to delay or cut back on their investment spending in large equipment and buildings. That has slowed economic growth.

“Uncertainty around future trade policy has been weighing on business sentiment,” Powell said. “It’s been a real distraction for management.”

Powell on Wednesday also urged Congress to lower the federal budget deficit so that lawmakers would have more flexibility to cut taxes or boost spending to counter a future recession.

“The federal budget is on an unsustainable path, with high and rising debt,” Powell said. “Over time, this outlook could restrain fiscal policymakers’ willingness or ability to support economic activity during a downturn.”

Other Fed officials have voiced similar concerns. Patrick Harker, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, said Tuesday that the large deficit, and the constraints it imposes on Congress in the event of a recession, “is one of the things I do lose sleep over.”

Powell also noted that with the Fed’s benchmark rate at historically low levels, the central bank will have less room to maneuver whenever

the next downturn arrives.

“Central banks around the world are going to have less room to cut in this new normal of low rates and low inflation,” he said.

The Fed is exploring an alternative policy framework, Powell said, that it hopes will provide more flexibility. In typical recessions, the Fed cuts short-term rates by roughly 5 percentage points.

Powell reiterated that the Fed believes the unemployment rate could fall further without necessarily pushing inflation higher, a view that suggests the central bank is a long way off from hiking rates.

“The data is not sending any signal that the labor market is so hot or that inflation is moving up,” he said in response to a question from New York Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat and vice chair of the Joint Economic Committee. “What we have learned ... is that the U.S. economy can operate at a much lower level of unemployment than many thought.”

Historically, super-low unemployment has been seen as likely to push up inflation, as workers push for higher pay and companies offer greater salaries to find and keep workers.

Powell’s testimony comes after many Fed officials in the past two weeks have voiced support for the Fed’s recent moves and expressed confidence in the economy. That contrasts with the Fed’s previous meetings when as many as three officials dissented.

Most analysts forecast that the Fed will hold rates steady when it meets next month. But some economists expect growth will slow in the coming months and the Fed will likely have to cut again next year.

# Officer: I quit Proud Boys over fears of ‘far-left’ attacks

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN  
Associated Press

A Connecticut police officer accused a civil rights organization’s leader of trying to “silence conservative voices” by raising concerns about his membership in a far-right group known for its violent clashes at political rallies, according to a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

In his letter, addressed to East Hampton’s police chief, Officer Kevin Wilcox said he was a dues-paying Proud Boys member for about eight months. But he said he quit the group because he suspected its members would be attacked by “far-left political organizations” and labeled as bigots due to their “love” for President Donald Trump.

The AP obtained a copy of Wilcox’s July 31 letter in response to a public records request.

The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law called for Wilcox’s removal from the police department after inquiring about his social media connections with Proud Boys members.

In September, East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner told the organization that Wilcox’s Proud Boys membership didn’t violate department policies.

Wilcox, 53, retired from the East Hampton Police Department on Oct. 22, one week after the AP reported that Wilcox had been a Proud Boys member and made online payments

to a group leader.

Kristen Clarke, the civil rights group’s president and executive director, had urged the department to investigate Wilcox’s “possible connections with white supremacist groups and individuals.” Her July 24 letter to the police chief described the Proud Boys as a “male-chauvinist group with ties to white nationalism.”

The chief asked Wilcox for a written response to Clarke’s allegations. Wilcox said Clarke’s claim that he publicly associated with white supremacists was “an outright lie and an assault on my character.”

“Clarke’s letter is filled with links to far-left propaganda that expose her motive, which is to silence conservative voices. The law firm that she represents is a cudgel used to bludgeon anyone who doesn’t follow their far left ideology,” he wrote.

The links in Clarke’s letter included articles published by PBS, National Public Radio, the Guardian newspaper and the Hartford Courant.

Wilcox also said it is “very telling” that Clarke’s organization is funded by “many uber-progressive (alt-left) foundations like George Soros’s Foundation to Promote Open Society.”

Soros is a billionaire philanthropist and Hungarian-born Jew who is frequently demonized by right-wing conspiracy theorists.

Clarke said her group’s

“sole goal is ensuring public safety at a time of increasing hate activity, extremism and racial violence.”

“Extremists undermine the integrity of law enforcement and pose a threat to public safety,” she wrote in a text message Wednesday. “We won’t stop until we eliminate extremists from the ranks of law enforcement, root and branch.”

Wilcox said he only was a “passive” member before he quit the Proud Boys in February, about five months before Clarke’s group first inquired about his Proud Boys ties.

“They were childish and annoying,” he wrote.

Vice Media co-founder Gavin McInnes started the Proud Boys in 2016. McInnes and the Proud Boys have described the group as a politically incorrect men’s club for “Western chauvinists” and deny affiliations with far-right extremist groups that overtly espouse racist and anti-Semitic views.

In February, McInnes sued the Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Center for labeling the Proud Boys as a hate group. In response to the lawsuit, the law center said Proud Boys members often spread “outright bigotry” over the internet and have posted social media pictures of themselves with prominent Holocaust deniers, white nationalists and “known neo-Nazis.”

In New York City in Oc-

tober 2018, police arrested several Proud Boys members who brawled with anti-fascist protesters following a speech by McInnes at a Manhattan Republican club. Proud Boys members also have frequently clashed with counterprotesters at rallies in California and Oregon.

Wilcox said he paid dues to a group leader and was told the money would pay for food and a room for “meet-ups.” The civil rights group claimed those payments visible, online dues payments helped fund the Proud Boys’ “violent or otherwise illegal” activities.

But the town’s police chief said he closed the department’s inquiry as being “unfounded,” with no evidence to support a policy violation or any proof that Wilcox is a white supremacist.

“Different individuals or organizations can have their own opinions of certain groups or individuals, which may or may not be correct according to others,” the chief wrote. “As an example, there are certain individuals/groups who view President Trump as a racist and others do not. Does that mean any person who contributes to the Republican party is therefore a racist?”

Wilcox had been an East Hampton police officer since 1999. The town is about 20 miles southeast of Hartford and has a population of nearly 13,000 residents, roughly 90 percent of whom are white.



speak up

How to contact your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.**  
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1-202-224-5623  
http://coats.senate.gov/contact

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.**  
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202-224-4814  
http://braun.senate.gov/

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17**  
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Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

**State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
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letters guidelines

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplainedealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

inspiration corner

Daily scripture

But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.

Psalms 9:7-8

A teaching moment for Northwestern

When former Attorney General Jeff Sessions agreed to speak at Northwestern University, editors at the student-run Daily Northwestern newspaper recognized it as a big story. Sessions, invited by College Republicans, was unwelcome by many on the liberal-leaning campus, so the Daily assigned one reporter to cover Sessions' talk and another to cover students protesting his appearance, plus a photographer.

So far so good, journalistically: Nice hustle, staff smartly deployed in the service of readers. As anticipated, Sessions' Nov. 5 appearance turned confrontational and the Daily got the story, all of it: Sessions explaining the policies of President Donald Trump, student protesters pounding on the doors trying to disrupt him, university police roughing up some of those protesters who got inside, Sessions criticizing the protesters for their "stupidity."

Maybe this incident isn't as significant as NU's antiwar strike of 1970 when a student barricade blocked Sheridan Road, but who knows? The work of journalists is to chronicle events in real-time—to write the first draft of history, as we news folks like to say. The reporters and editors of The Daily Northwestern did their job.

And then, in the aftermath, Daily editors had second thoughts about their coverage decisions, second thoughts about their responsibilities to readers, second thoughts about the role of a campus newspaper at a politically charged moment in America. Instead of taking justifiable pride in their reporting, the editors—shockingly—apologized.

In a signed statement published Sunday, Editor in Chief Troy Closson and other staffers repudiated their own work, saying photos of the demonstrators posted to social media were "invasive." They also expressed regret that reporters had used Northwestern's directory to

obtain phone numbers for students and then texted those students to ask if they'd be willing to be interviewed. The Daily editors abrogated their responsibility, unpublishing photos and pledging to rebuild trust they perceived was broken—when in fact they'd had their priorities and journalistic practices exactly right.

The tone of the apology provides context for the Daily's puzzling capitulation. The editors mistakenly decided in hindsight that Sessions' appearance as a Trumpian Republican wasn't news in the customary sense, it was a traumatizing event that required extreme sensitivity. "We feel that covering traumatic events requires a different response than many other stories," the editors wrote. "While our goal is to document history and spread information, nothing is more important than ensuring that our fellow students feel safe—and in situations like this, that they are benefiting from our coverage rather than being actively harmed by it."

To be frank, that's not journalism. That's the language of campus coddling. It's prevalent at too many colleges, where professors provide "trigger warnings" before addressing tough topics and administrators avoid having divisive—read: conservative—speakers on campus.

We're disappointed in Northwestern President Morton Schapiro, who said he supported Sessions' appearance but then lamented that Sessions wasn't "the right speaker" for Northwestern. Too polarizing for Schapiro's taste? That should be the university's goal: to expose students to different opinions, even ones they may find disagreeable, and encourage those students to listen, to question and to respond (civilly).

In contrast, we've admired the University of Chicago's commitment to free expression as voiced forcefully and repeatedly by President Robert Zim-

mer: to embrace the marketplace of ideas, including potentially offensive ones, so students can learn to think for themselves.

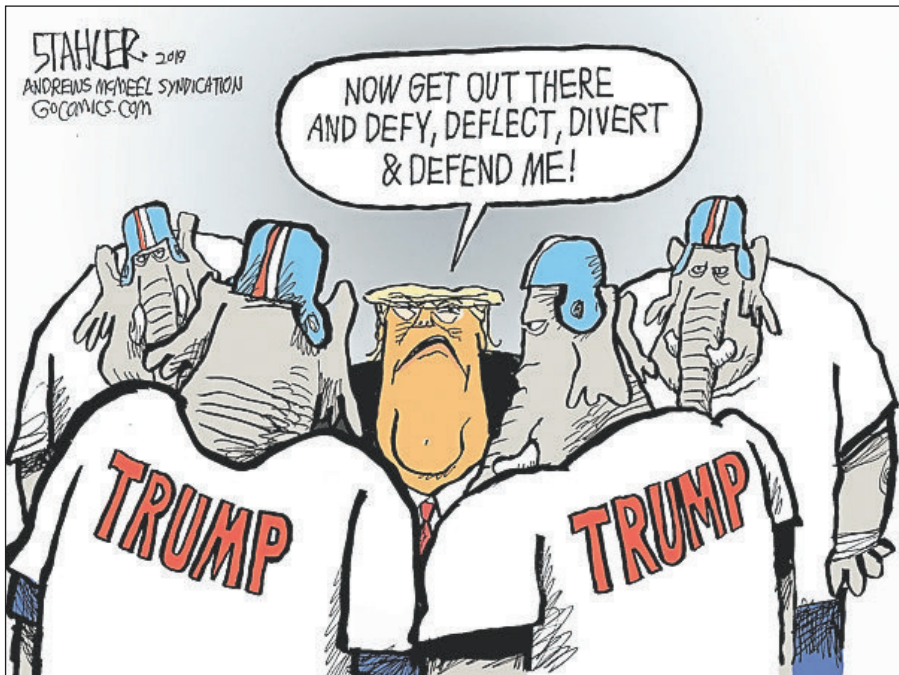
When even NU's president wishes the Sessions event hadn't happened, the Daily's editors would have felt awfully lonely sticking to journalistic principles. Closson, as the third African American editor in Daily history, explained on Twitter that he thought he had a responsibility to gain readership from students of color who had felt alienated from the newspaper. That's an appropriate goal, but here's what news organizations owe their audiences: thorough, fair-minded coverage via energetic and creative reporting—not pandering to public sentiment. Readers (students included) who are pampered and protected remain uninformed.

In the aftermath of the aftermath, we want to support the Daily's editors, not castigate them. They are students who, by definition, learn by doing—and sometimes failing. Closson acknowledges that the Daily's statement was an overcorrection. He's owning this episode.

Hey, we err too. The Tribune publishes corrections and clarifications almost every day. We learn from our mistakes then move on. Do the same, Daily editors: Examine your work and make sure it's in the service of your entire readership, because all those people count on you to report the facts accurately and impartially.

Let this be a teaching moment, then, for the Daily, for President Schapiro and for Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, whose professors we know have the chops to teach the craft. Among its tenets: Journalism isn't about popularity. Sometimes there's no better way to make enemies than telling the truth to the people.

This editorial was first published in The Chicago Tribune.



No, Michael Bloomberg will not save the Democrats

(WARNING: Parts of this column may bear strong resemblance to my earlier columns when Michael Bloomberg toyed with running for president, because with Bloomberg, history has a way of repeating itself.)

Every four years, Michael Bloomberg hears something virtually no other American hears: a groundswell of support for a Michael Bloomberg presidential candidacy. Now, as the 2020 Democratic primaries rapidly approach, he's hearing it again.

Bloomberg, a fairly successful mayor of New York and a fabulously successful businessman, has an estimated net worth of \$52 billion. Without that fortune, nobody would be talking about a Bloomberg candidacy at this late date. But with his money, Bloomberg could self-finance a run from start to finish without ever having to ask a single donor for a penny. That gives him freedom to float a would-be candidacy long after the field has been set.

This time, Bloomberg, who in his political life has been a Democrat, a Republican, an independent and now a Democrat again, is setting a personal record by flitting twice in a single cycle.

Last spring, there was a ripple of speculation about a 2020 Bloomberg candidacy. On March 5, Bloomberg put an end to it when he announced flatly, "I'm not running for president." Instead, he said, he would pour his energy and resources into a new climate change project called Beyond Carbon.

Now, however, he has apparently moved beyond Beyond Carbon. Last week, The New York Times reported that Bloomberg is "actively preparing to enter the Democratic presidential primary." "Mike is increasingly concerned that the current field of candidates is not

well positioned (to defeat Trump)," Bloomberg adviser Howard Wolfson told the paper. "If Mike runs he would offer a new choice to Democrats built on a unique record running America's biggest city, building a business from scratch and taking on some of America's toughest challenges as a high-impact philanthropist."

Bloomberg is said to be concerned—and it is a legitimate concern—that the current Democratic field has moved too far left, embracing policies like Medicare for All, virtually open borders, free college and wealth taxes. That's what Wolfson meant when he said the field is "not well positioned" to beat Trump.

But there is no indication that voters believe Bloomberg is the solution to the problem. This latest tease is too recent for any reliable polling—although one survey found Bloomberg with the highest negatives in the field—but in the past, he has never been a voter favorite outside the confines of New York City.

Bloomberg is being pressed into action by states with early primary filing deadlines. He has already placed his name on the ballot for the Alabama primary, and a short time later flew to Arkansas to file there.

Alabama and Arkansas are fine, but what about Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina—the first states to cast votes and award delegates? Bloomberg has apparently decided to blow them off.

"In a dramatic acknowledgment of his own late start in the race," the Times reported, "Mr. Bloomberg and his advisers have decided that he would pursue a risky strategy of skipping all four traditional early state contests ... and focus instead on big states that hold primaries soon afterward."

Instead of "risky strategy," one might substitute "crazy strategy." Candidates in the past have sometimes tried to skip an early primary or caucus, but

skipping all four at the beginning is a sure way to lose. Bloomberg predecessor Rudy Giuliani essentially tried it in the Republican contest in 2008, and by the time the first four primaries were over, voters barely remembered Giuliani was in the race.

The same will likely happen to Bloomberg, if he goes through with it. Recall the excitement and 24/7 media attention that precedes the Iowa caucuses, and then the shift to New Hampshire, and so on. Bloomberg won't be a part of that. He can buy all the ads he wants telling people to just wait until he gets in, but there will be Democratic winners chosen by the voters of the first four state contests who cannot be ignored.

Also, if Bloomberg jumps in, voters will eventually recognize that he, like Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders, is too old to be president. Bloomberg will be nearly 79 on Inauguration Day 2021. Like Biden, who will be 78, and Sanders, who will be 79, Bloomberg will have to convince voters that a president in his 80s—never before seen in American history—is nothing to worry about.

Bloomberg's move is a symptom of Democratic anxiety. We've seen it before, in both parties. At the beginning of a primary season, with a big field of candidates starting the race, the party faithful say, "Isn't this great? We have so many good candidates—almost an embarrassment of riches!" Then, after several months of campaigning, they say, "Can't somebody enter this race and save us?"

The answer is no. The Democratic field is what it is. One of the candidates in the race right now will win the nomination, go on to face President Trump, and have a chance to become the next president. There's no savior waiting to rescue Democrats—and that includes Michael Bloomberg.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

Ronald Reagan is not even welcome in Berlin now

In June 1987, President Ronald Reagan stood before the Berlin Wall at the Branden-

**Marc A. Thiessen**



burg Gate and uttered those iconic words that shook the world: "General Secretary Gorbachev ... come here to this gate ... Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" They had

been repeatedly removed from his draft speech by nervous State Department bureaucrats, but Reagan kept putting them back in. And just 2 and a half years after Reagan spoke them, that wall came down.

We speak now of the "fall" of the Berlin Wall, but in truth the wall did not just fall. It was pushed. It was the policies of Reagan—his insistence on speaking truth about the evils of Communism, and his support for anti-Soviet freedom fighters, increased defense spending, the deployment of intermediate range missiles in Europe and the Strategic Defense Initiative—that bankrupted the Soviet Union and brought about the peaceful collapse of the wall and the Evil Empire that built it.

So it comes as a shock to learn that today Reagan is not welcome in Berlin. To mark the 30th anniversary of the wall's collapse, the United States tried to get German agreement to erect a statue of Reagan in a public square in Berlin. Berlin officials refused. John Heubusch, head of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute, said that "we were told it would be near impossible to make such a statue in Berlin."

Faced with German rejection of a Reagan statue on German soil, the Trump administration decided to erect it on U.S. soil—on the embassy terrace overlooking the Brandenburg Gate where Reagan delivered his fateful call. In an interview, U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell says, "We decided we were going to take matters into our own hands and put a statue up on the top of the U.S. Embassy." Last week, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo traveled to Berlin to unveil it.

Germany's ingratitude is stunning. Perhaps no country on Earth owes more to the American people. It was the United States that rebuilt post-war Germany with the Marshall Plan. It was the United States that saved Berlin from Soviet domination with the Berlin Airlift. It was the United States that stationed tens of thousands of troops in Germany to prevent a Soviet invasion across the Fulda Gap. The threat of such an invasion was real. The Washington Post reported in 1993 that after East Germany's collapse, the German military found that the communists had "prepared a detailed plan for the takeover of West Berlin" in which "Soviet forces and East German army, border police and local police ... would storm through the Berlin Wall." The planning was "so detailed and advanced that the communists had already made street signs for western cities."

Without the United States, without Reagan, the wall would have been brought down—smashed under the treads of Soviet tanks.

In the 20th century, Americans sacrificed their lives and treasure to liberate Germany first from National Socialism and then from Soviet socialism. When the world wanted peaceful coexistence with Soviet communism, Reagan declared his policy toward the U.S.S.R. was simple: "We win, they lose." Lose they did, without a shot fired. And today, the United States still has 50,000 troops stationed on German soil. Germany owes its freedom and prosperity to America and specifically to Ronald Reagan. The least they could do is say thank you, and put up a simple statue.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen on Twitter, @marcthiessen.





SMOOTH: This recipe calls for a combination of sour cream and Greek yogurt in the mash, which creates a balance of smooth richness and tangy lightness.

# These roots are smashing

BY LYNDA BALSLEV

Root vegetables are fall and winter’s best-kept secret. Packed with nutrients, natural sugars and starch, the humble root is a healthy and flavorful substitute for the ubiquitous russet potato and a superb way to get your vitamins and nutrients in the cold-weather season. A good peel of skin reveals a rainbow of antioxidant-rich colors ranging from magenta to ochre to buttery yellow, sure to brighten any gray day – and your holiday table.

Feel free to mix and match roots, such as sweet potato, parsnip, rutabaga, carrot, celery root, and of course the dependable russet, to your taste and preference. Try to choose a balance of sweet and savory roots for even flavor, and mash them to your desired consistency. It’s OK if the mash is a little chunky – it provides a nice rustic presentation.

This recipe calls for a combination of sour cream and Greek yogurt in the mash,

which creates a balance of smooth richness and tangy lightness. So long as you use a combined amount of 1 cup, you can opt for all of one or the other.

### Smashed Roots

- Active Time:** 40 minutes
- Total Time:** 40 minutes
- Yield:** Serves 4 to 6
- 3 pounds mixed roots** (such as 1 pound each of sweet potato, celery root and rutabaga)
- Salt**
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup whole-milk plain Greek yogurt
- Freshly ground black pepper

Peel the root vegetables and cut into 1-inch chunks. Place the vegetables in a large pot with 2 teaspoons salt and cover with cold water. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce the heat to medium and simmer until the vegetables are very tender, about 20 minutes.

Drain the vegetables and return them to the pot; cool 5 minutes. Add the garlic and butter and mash with a potato masher until the butter is melted. Add the sour cream and yogurt and continue to mash until the ingredients are blended and the mash is to your desired consistency (I like mine a little chunky). Add 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper, taste for seasoning, and add more if desired.

Spoon into a serving bowl and serve warm.

Prepare ahead:

The mash may be prepared up to 1 day in advance of serving. Cool completely and transfer to a buttered gratin dish. Cover and refrigerate for up to 24 hours. Remove from refrigerator 1 hour before serving.

To reheat, heat the oven to 325 degrees. Dot the top of the mash with about 1 tablespoon of finely diced butter and cover with foil. Bake in the oven until heated through, 30 to 40 minutes.

## Pumpkin mac and cheese

BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

If you are looking for a unique twist on a classic dish, look no further. This pumpkin mac and cheese is a wonderful way to add a nutritional boost to your usual mac and cheese recipe. Pumpkins are rich in carotenoids, particularly alpha- and beta-carotene, high in fiber and provide 100 percent of your daily value of vitamin A in just one serving. This creamy, delicious dish is not only perfect for a fall dinner, but contains 14g of protein and 5g of dietary fiber.

### Ingredients

- Canola oil cooking spray
- 1/2 cup panko bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 Tbsp. canola oil
- 8 oz. whole-wheat pasta
- 1 cup low-fat (1 percent) milk
- 1 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups (2 1/2 oz.) sharp light (50 percent) Cheddar cheese

- 1 cup canned unsweetened pumpkin
- 1/2 tsp. mustard powder
- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 1/8 tsp. ground nutmeg, optional

### Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Coat 6 cup baking dish with cooking spray and set aside.

In a separate bowl mix together breadcrumbs and Parmesan cheese and toss to combine. Add oil and using your fingers, toss to coat breadcrumbs, then set mixture aside.

In large pot, boil 4 quarts of water. Add pasta and cook for 10 minutes, until slightly al dente. Drain in colander, and set aside.

While pasta is cooking, heat milk in microwave or small saucepan, until it steams, and set aside.

In large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Whisk in flour and cook for 1 min-

ute, whisking slowly. Remove from heat and gradually add milk while whisking to avoid lumps. Return pot to medium-high heat and simmer sauce until it thickens to consistency of stirred yogurt, about 3 minutes.

Add Cheddar cheese, pumpkin, mustard, black and cayenne peppers and nutmeg (optional), and stir until cheese melts completely.

Mix in cooked pasta to cheese mixture.

Spread mac and cheese in prepared baking dish and sprinkle with breadcrumb and parmesan cheese mixture over top.

Bake 15-20 minutes or until breadcrumbs are crisp and golden brown. Serve immediately.

Makes 6 servings.

Per Serving: 340 calories, 13 g total fat (6 g saturated fat), 41g total carbs, 5g dietary fiber, 14g protein, 250mg sodium.



BOOST: This pumpkin mac and cheese is a wonderful way to add a nutritional boost to your usual mac and cheese recipe.

## Greta Thunberg hitches low-carbon ride across Atlantic

BY BEN FINLEY

HAMPTON, Va. — Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg left North America on a return trip across the Atlantic on Wednesday, hitching a renewable-energy ride with an Australian family aboard their 48-foot catamaran.

Thunberg tweeted that they set sail from Virginia after the family answered her urgent appeal for a ride back to Europe, where she hopes to arrive in time for the United Nations climate meeting that was moved to Madrid in early December. They left shortly before 8 a.m. She encouraged followers to track their journey online.

Their boat, named La Vagabonde, leaves little to no carbon footprint, using solar panels and hydro-generators for power. It also has a toilet, unlike the boat on which she sailed from the United Kingdom to New York in August. That one had only a bucket.

“There are countless people around the world who don’t have access to a toilet,” she said about the upgrade. “It’s not that important. But it’s nice to have.”

Thunberg spoke with The Associated Press Tuesday inside the tight confines of the boat’s cabin as it was docked in Hampton, near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

The boat’s owners are Riley Whitelum and Elayna Carausu, an Australian couple who travel the world with their 11-month-old baby, Lenny. The family, which has a large online following, responded

to Thunberg’s call on social media for a carbon-free ride to Europe. An expert sailor, Nikki Henderson, also is coming along.

The trip could take two to four weeks, in conditions that could be challenging. November is considered offseason for sailing across the Atlantic. As Thunberg spoke Tuesday, the temperature had dipped into the 30s, with sleet turning to light snow.

But the 16-year-old, who refuses to fly because of the carbon price of plane travel, didn’t seem bothered.

“I’m looking forward to it, just to be able to get away and recap everything and to just be disconnected,” she said.

Thunberg’s nearly three-month trip through North America included her impassioned speech before the United Nations. She joined in climate strike rallies and protests from California to Colorado

to North Carolina.

Thunberg has become a symbol of a growing movement of young climate activists after leading weekly school strikes in Sweden that inspired similar actions in about 100 cities worldwide.

She’s also drawn criticism from conservative commentators in the U.S. as well as Russian President Vladimir Putin. But she brushed off the criticism Tuesday, saying that yes, she IS too young to be doing this.

“It should be the adults who take that responsibility,” Thunberg said. “But it feels like the adults and the people in power today are not.”

When she looks back on her time in the U.S. and Canada, Thunberg said, the things that stick out the most include a glacier in Canada’s Jasper National Park that is destined to disappear “no matter what we do.”

# GRAND OPENING

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Squires earn first win of season

Manchester's girls' basketball team earned its first win of the season on the road on Tuesday, downing Cass 56-26. Mackenzie Day had 12 points and five rebounds and Beletu Stout had 11 in the victory.

Woman says Denver arena guard told her to remove hijab

DENVER (AP) — A Muslim civil rights group is protesting after a Colorado arena security guard told a woman to remove her hijab before she could enter to see her 8-year-old daughter sing the national anthem with her school choir at a Denver Nuggets basketball game.

Gazella Bensreiti (ben-SRAY-tee) said Wednesday that the guard told her to "take that thing off of my head" at the Pepsi Center box office on Nov. 5.

Bensreiti said she explained the scarf was for religious purposes. She said the guard replied that she didn't care.

After speaking with a supervisor, the guard ushered her inside.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations protested the incident.

Arena owner Kroenke Sports & Entertainment called the encounter a misunderstanding and said the guard didn't recognize that Bensreiti was wearing a hijab.

Piazza to manage Italian national team

NEW YORK (AP) — Hall of Fame catcher Mike Piazza says he has agreed to become manager of Italy's national baseball team.

The 51-year-old Piazza, who was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania, is of Italian ancestry. He tweeted Wednesday he will manage Italy at a European tournament in 2020 and at the 2021 World Baseball Classic.

Piazza was Italy's hitting coach at the 2009 and 2013 WBC tournaments.

In 2016, he bought control of the third-tier soccer club Reggiana, which dropped out of Serie C after the 2017-18 season.

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3:00 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:

E-mailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.

Mailed into Plain Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Organizations or individuals e-mailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The Plain Dealer reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL



VOLLEYBALL: Northfield's Abby Hunter sets the ball to waiting teammates during the Norse's game against Maconaquah earlier this season.

Five county athletes earn All-TRC honors

STAFF REPORTS

A pair of Norse and Apaches each earned Three Rivers Conference (TRC) All-Conference honors on the volleyball court this fall. Addi Baker and Abby Hunter of Northfield and Mariah Wyatt and Alivia Short of Wabash earned a spot on the All-TRC team as did Southwood's Marissa Metzger.

The quintet is joined on the All-Conference team by Maconaquah's Emily Bowyer, Lilly Maple and Averil Miller, Peru's Courtney Crowe, Rochester's

Alivia Reagle and Christina Towne, Tippecanoe Valley's Hannah Engstrand and Makenzie Woodcox and Whitko's Morgan Howard.

Woodcox led the TRC in kills this year with 479 on the year while Baker was second with 379. Wyatt finished fifth and short sixth in kills at 314 and 272 kills, respectively.

Wyatt finished second in the conference in blocks and Short fifth on the year as two of the top players in the front line defensively while Faust led the conference in digs with 725 on the year. Baker

was fourth in the league in digs with 463.

Each of the top three setters earned spots on the All-Conference team this fall. Engstrand led the conference in assists with 876, Miller was second with 760 and Hunter was third with 658.

Earning Honorable Mention from Wabash County were Manchester's Ali Sites and Kendra Kline, Northfield's Kenzie Baer, Southwood's Erin McGouldrick and Wabash's Haylie Faust and Jordan Stumbo. Rounding out the Honorable Men-

tions were Taylor Roesler of Maconaquah, Maryann Freeman and Arianis Rodriguez of North Miami, Cate Wolfe of Peru, Kaitlin Rogers of Rochester, Amy Baca and Delaney Wagoner of Tippecanoe Valley and Halley Howard of Whitko.

The Braves won the conference title this season with an unbeaten 9-0 record on the year. Northfield was second with the team's lone TRC loss coming to Maconaquah. Rochester was third, Tippecanoe Valley fourth and Southwood fifth in the conference.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Evansville stuns top ranked Kentucky at Rupp Arena, 67-64

BY GARY B. GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Evansville showed no fear either of Kentucky or venerable Rupp Arena, where the Wildcats had been perfect at ruining visitors' dreams of pulling off the seemingly impossible.

Until Tuesday night. Not only did the Purple Aces deal No. 1 Kentucky a stunning 67-64 upset, they beat the bigger, stronger Wildcats at their own game. When it was over, players, coaches and their fans whooped it up in a corner of the famed court, making sure they savored every bit of a momentous victory.

"To be here is a dream come true," Evansville sophomore forward DeAndre Williams said. "We took advantage and we made history."

Sam Cunliffe scored 17 points, including two free throws with 6.8 seconds remaining to silence Kentucky (2-1) and a crowd of 19,101

— most of whom had expected a routine nonconference win from the Wildcats, who were 25-point favorites and had earned the top ranking a day earlier.

Those expectations never materialized as Evansville (2-0) controlled the younger Wildcats on both ends of the floor.

K.J. Riley added 18 points as the Purple Aces — coached by Walter McCarty, who won a national title with Kentucky in 1996 — pulled off the biggest upset in program history with their first win over a No. 1 team in three tries.

Evansville led much of the game and answered each Kentucky rally with clutch baskets to grab the lead and then maintain it for the season's biggest upset.

Kentucky had been 39-0 at home against unranked, non-conference opponents when ranked No. 1 in The Associated Press poll. Evansville, meanwhile, got its first-ever road win over an AP-ranked

team.

"Walter and their team deserved to win," Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "If we would have somehow pulled it out, it would have been, kind of wouldn't even have been fair because they fought us the whole game and they were the tougher team."

"They executed, they made shots and 3s and free throws. My hat's off to them. It's hard to do that in this building, but they were more ready to play. He had his team better prepared than I had my team."

Tyrese Maxey's layup with 8 seconds remaining got Kentucky within 65-64, but Cunliffe stepped to the line and calmly made both ends of the 1-and-1 as his teammates locked arms on the bench. The Purple Aces raised their hands and ran around a silent Rupp Arena after the final horn as the Wildcats slowly walked off.

Immanuel Quickley led Kentucky with 16 points,

and Maxey scored 15.

Cunliffe, a redshirt junior guard who played at Arizona State and Kansas, did most of his damage with 15 first-half points off the bench.

"It's amazing. You come to a school like this and you talk about doing things like this and making history and playing in front of these bright lights," Cunliffe said. "We prepared the right way. We had our mind set in the right spot that we could actually do it. It is surreal."

Evansville won just 11 games last season, its first under McCarty, who played in the NBA for 10 years and was an assistant at Louisville under Rick Pitino — his coach at Kentucky — and in the NBA before returning to his hometown to coach the Purple Aces.

Evansville made nine of 30 3-point attempts while shooting 38% from the field to Kentucky's 37%. The Aces also outrebounded the

See EVANSVILLE / Page B2

MLB

MLB checking into report '17 Astros stole signs, broke rules

BY DAVID BRANDT

AP Sports Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Major League Baseball has expanded its investigation into the Houston Astros after The Athletic website reported the team stole signs during home games in 2017 by using a camera positioned in center field.

The report Tuesday quoted pitcher Mike Fiers, who played for the Astros that season, and three other unidentified people with the club. The Astros won the World Series that year — two sources told The Athletic that Houston used the system into the playoffs while another source said the system ended before the postseason.

The website said the process was started by a struggling hitter and a coach, neither of whom was identified. The camera at Minute Maid Park was connected to a television monitor in the tunnel between the Astros' dugout and clubhouse, The Athletic said, and team employees or players would communicate expected pitches by banging a trash can to signal off-speed pitches.

"I just want the game to be cleaned up a little bit because there are guys who are losing their jobs because they're going in there not knowing," Fiers told the website.

The Astros said in a statement the team "has begun an investigation in cooperation with Major League Baseball" and declined additional comment.

Houston general manager Jeff Luhnow declined to talk about specifics.

"We take the allegation seriously and we're going to look into it. If you're not following the rules, it's a serious matter," he said Tuesday at the annual GM meetings. "I'm not going to get into exactly what I knew or anybody knew at this point. So I'm just going to have to wait and see. But I'm sure there will be an appropriate time to answer that question directly."

Luhnow said he hoped the allegations wouldn't put a damper on Houston's recent run of success, which includes the team's first World Series title in 2017 and an AL pennant this season.

"Teams are competing with one another and everybody's trying to find an edge," Luhnow said. "But we all have to follow the rules and the rules are set by Major League Baseball. We all agree to follow them and if you don't there's ramifications to that. We want to follow the rules and we want to compete and win. That's what every other club does, as well."

Danny Farquhar, who pitched for the Chicago White Sox twice at Minute Maid Park in September 2017, told The Athletic of "a banging from the dugout, almost like a bat hitting the bat rack every time a changeup signal got put down." He said after Chicago changed to more complex signals "the banging stopped."

See ASTROS / Page B2







COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# IU uses free throws to pull away from N. Alabama

BY MICHAEL MAROT  
AP Sports Writer

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Indiana Hoosiers coach Archie Miller wanted Trayce Jackson-Davis to be more aggressive offensively and defensively.

He responded just the way Miller had hoped.

The highly-touted freshman scored a season-high 20 points, grabbed eight rebounds, blocked three shots and made 14 of 15 free throws Tuesday, leading the Hoosiers past North Alabama 91-65.

“I’ve been telling him this since 10th grade — he’s going to get fouled a lot,” Miller said. “He’s left-handed, kind of awkward, can draw fouls in different ways and he’s al-

ways done that. Fourteen of 15 from the line, that’s big.”

Actually, it was crucial.

A year ago, Indiana shot 65.5% from the line. On Tuesday, the Hoosiers were 37 of 45 from — largely because of Jackson-Davis and his revamped motion.

“Coach and I really just put an emphasis on not starting it down low and putting it up,” Jackson-Davis said, describing the form. “It’s worked pretty well for me.”

Unbeaten Indiana (3-0) certainly won’t complain.

And Jackson-Davis got plenty of help, too. Rob Phinisee finished with 13 points and six assists and redshirt freshman Jerome Hunter scored a season-high 12 points.

But the second-year Division I program sure didn’t make it easy on the Hoosiers. Jamari Blackmon made his first four 3-pointers and North Alabama stayed close throughout the first half despite committing 10 turnovers, drawing 17 fouls and having five shots blocked.

Indiana finally broke away with a 10-1 run late in the first half to take a 41-31 lead and was still clinging to a 50-43 edge 2½ minutes into the second half.

Jackson-Davis answered with eight straight points to start a 15-2 spurt and the Lions (1-2) never recovered.

Blackmon scored 19 points while C.J. Brim and Christian Agnew each had 11 to lead North Alabama.

“I think our guys struggled a little bit with the physicality down low and unfortunately shots weren’t going down,” coach Tony Pujol said. “I think what we struggled with was defending without fouling. When you send a team to the line 45 times, it’s pretty hard to win that game.”

STAT SHEET

**North Alabama:** The Lions were called for 32 fouls, including a technical for flopping, and wound up with 22 turnovers. ... Midway through the second half, North Alabama had as many turnovers as rebounds (19). ... Two players fouled out and two more finished with four fouls. ... The Lions started 7 of 10 on 3s but

went 0 for 4 from beyond the arc in the second half.

**Indiana:** Al Durham scored 11 points and Damezi Anderson had 10. ... Justin Smith had three points and two rebounds in 19½ minutes. ... Jackson-Davis also drew eight fouls. ... Indiana’s bench outscored North Alabama 46-23.

THE ROAR

Fans inside Assembly Hall cheered loudly as the Hoosiers started pulling away in the second half, saving their loudest applause for Jackson-Davis’ spectacular alley-oop dunk from Anderson.

The second loudest roar came when Evansville’s victory over No. 1 Kentucky

was posted on the scoreboard. Indiana and Kentucky haven’t played since 2016 but the rivalry lives on as evidenced by the students started chanting “Ev-ans-ville.”

BIG PICTURE

**Indiana:** The Hoosiers remained poised as North Alabama refused to go away, then quietly put the game away with free throws and defense. Miller is one win away from his first 4-0 start since coming to Bloomington three years ago.

UP NEXT

The Hoosiers host Troy on Saturday for the first of four games in the Indiana Challenge.

NFL

# Texans-Ravens could be first of many QB duels

BY SCHUYLER DIXON  
AP Pro Football Writer

This is the first of what could be many meetings between two dynamic young AFC quarterbacks when Deshaun Watson and the Houston Texans visit Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday.

It might not even be the only one this season.

Watson was the 12th overall pick of the 2017 draft after leading Clemson to a national championship, Jackson the disappointed final choice of the first round a year later out of Louisville.

It took the Texans one game to commit to Watson as the starter when he was a rookie. The Ravens needed a little longer last year to decide Jackson was more than just the heir apparent to Joe Flacco, the 11-year starter who was benched in Week 11.

Watson and Jackson go into their meeting at the helm of division leaders, the Texans (6-3) in front in the AFC South and the Ravens (7-2) atop the AFC North.

BALTIMORE, 31-30.  
**KNOCKOUT POOL:** The AP prognostication crew has been knocked out thanks to New Orleans’ loss to Atlanta. If we were still in the game, our pick would be CAROLINA.

**No. 13 Pittsburgh (plus 3) at No. 23 Cleveland**

The Steelers have forced 26 turnovers, second to New England. The Browns are tied for fifth with the most turnovers. Look for the Pittsburgh defense to continue the team’s recovery from a 1-4 start. **UPSET SPECIAL:** PITTSBURGH, 17-13

**No. 26 Denver (plus 10½) at No. 7 Minnesota**

The Vikings are coming off perhaps their best win of the season at the Cowboys. But Broncos coach Vic Fangio gave the Minnesota offense fits twice last season as Chicago’s defensive coordinator. MINNESOTA, 16-9

**No. 27 Atlanta (plus 6) at No. 15 Carolina**

Knowing Cam Newton is now out for at least the rest of the regular season with a foot injury, Kyle Allen threw for a career-high 307 yards in the snow in a loss at Green Bay. CAROLINA, 27-17

**No. 11 Buffalo (minus 6) at No. 28 Miami**

Ryan Fitzpatrick is doing his best to keep the Dolphins competitive (two straight wins), and he gets to face one of his seven former teams. **BEST BET:** BUFFALO, 28-7

**No. 21 Jacksonville (plus 3½) at Indianapolis**

Nick Foles will be the starter now that rookie Gardner Minshew has come back to earth a bit. This game has implications in the jumbled AFC wild-card race. If Jacoby Brissett returns from a knee injury, that should be enough for the Colts in a low-scoring game.

INDIANAPOLIS, 14-12

**No. 6 New Orleans (minus 3½) at No. 25 Tampa Bay**

Expect a bounce-back from Drew Brees and the Saints after the loss to the Falcons. A Tampa Bay defense that struggles to defend the pass could be the perfect antidote.

NEW ORLEANS, 31-13

**No. 29 N.Y. Jets (plus 1) at 31 Washington**

Will the Jets defense give up four touchdown passes to a rookie quarterback for the second week in a row? Probably not, since the Redskins didn’t go with Dwayne Haskins as early as the Giants turned to Daniel Jones.

WASHINGTON, 21-20

**No. 32 Cincinnati (plus 10) at No. 16 Oakland**

The Raiders’ last-place schedule delivers again with the winless Bengals. Expect the Raiders to take advantage again to continue an unexpected surge to playoff contention.

OAKLAND, 28-14

**No. 2 New England (minus 3½) at No. 12 Philadelphia**

The first meeting of these teams since the Eagles won the 2018 Super Bowl is also the Patriots’ return from their open week following their first loss, to Baltimore.

NEW ENGLAND, 23-16

**No. 10 Dallas (off) at No. 22 Detroit**

Ezekiel Elliott faces one of the NFL’s worst run defenses a week after getting bottled up by the Vikings. The Cowboys need to bounce back against another NFC North opponent, otherwise the outlook gets dim for a team that started the season with high expectations. The Lions might be without Matthew Stafford again.

DALLAS, 30-18

**No. 24 Arizona (plus 13½) at San Francisco**

This line must be based more on the first three quarters of the first meeting just two weeks ago. That was before Kyler Murray brought the Cardinals back in a 28-25 loss, keyed by an 88-yard touchdown pass.

SAN FRANCISCO, 23-19

**No. 19 Chicago (plus 8½) at No. 14 LA Rams**

The Bears beat the Rams when Sean McVay’s team was healthy last year in Chicago. So it stands to reason that Chicago can do it again with LA lacking rhythm and fighting injuries offensively.

**UPSET SPECIAL:** CHICAGO, 20-17

**No. 9 Kansas City (minus 4) vs. No. 20 LA Chargers at Mexico City**

It’s the second game back for Patrick Mahomes coming off his knee injury, and the Chiefs are suddenly threatened by Oakland in the AFC West.

This could be the last chance for the Chargers to stay in the division race, but that desperation won’t be enough.

KANSAS CITY, 28-23

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Auburn at center of it all down the SEC stretch

BY RALPH D. RUSSO  
AP College Football Writer

Over the next three weeks, Auburn will be in the middle of the action even though the Tigers are outside the play-off race.

No. 13 Auburn plays two top-five playoff contenders in No. 5 Georgia (No. 4 CFP) and No. 4 Alabama (No. 5 CFP) at home in November, and depending upon how the Tigers do their coach may or may not be in danger of losing his job.

If the ground on the Plains is shaky for Gus Malzahn, he could become the most accomplished coach in a job market that already includes vacancies at a recent national championship program (Florida State) and the Southeastern Conference school (Arkansas) in his home state.

First chance for the Tigers to play spoiler comes Saturday at Jordan-Hare Stadium against Georgia in the Deep South’s oldest rivalry.

Meeting No. 116 will feature two tough defenses and a seasoned veteran quarterback in Georgia’s Jake Fromm facing a freshman quarterback in Auburn’s Bo Nix, who has had a bumpy ride this year.

Auburn-Georgia is one of a season-high five games matching ranked teams on the schedule.

The other one with major playoff implications is in the Big 12, where No. 12 Baylor tries to stay unbeaten against No. 10 Oklahoma.

The picks:

**No. 1 LSU (minus 21) at Mississippi**

Maybe a ‘Bama hangover slows down the Tigers? Probably not ... LSU 42-17.

**No. 2 Ohio State (minus 52½) at Rutgers**

Since the Scarlet Knights joined the Big Ten, they have lost five games to the Buckeyes, average score 54-5 ... OHIO STATE 54-5.

**Wake Forest (plus 34½) at No. 3 Clemson**

Demon Deacons have lost top receiver (Sage Surratt) and leading tackler (Justin Strnad) to injuries in the last

month ... CLEMSON 49-21.

**No. 4 Alabama (minus 19½) at Mississippi State**

Tide has won 11 straight against the Bulldogs ... ALABAMA 45-17, BEST BET.

**No. 5 Georgia (minus 2½) at No. 13 Auburn**

Tigers beating Georgia could make the playoff race even more confusing if the Bulldogs go on to win the SEC championship; Auburn is good at making things complicated ... AUBURN 24-20, UPSET SPECIAL.

**Arizona (plus 27) at No. 6 Oregon**

Wildcats have quietly collapsed after a four-game winning streak ... OREGON 45-17.

**No. 7 Minnesota (plus 3) at No. 23 Iowa**

Floyd of Rosedale is on the line; the Big Ten’s most famous pig has resided in Iowa since 2015 ... MINNESOTA 20-18.

**UCLA (plus 21) at No. 8 Utah**

Bruins have won three straight to get back into Pac-12 South race ... UTAH 38-13.

**No. 24 Indiana (plus 14½) at No. 9 Penn State**

Nittany Lions can still set up a crucial game against Ohio State next week ... PENN STATE 35-17

**No. 10 Oklahoma (minus 10) at No. 12 Baylor**

Bears have been escape artists with four one-score victories in the Big 12, including two overtime games ... OKLAHOMA 38-31.

**No. 11 Florida (minus 7) at Missouri**

Mizzou should have QB Kelly Bryant (hamstring) back this week after getting shut out without him last week by Georgia ... FLORIDA 24-20.

**Michigan State (plus 13½) at No. 14 Michigan**

Spartans come in on a four-game

losing streak; the Wolverines have not had a winning streak in the series since 2007 ... MICHIGAN 28-13.

**No. 15 Wisconsin (minus 14½) at Nebraska**

Badgers have won six straight and seven of eight against the Cornhuskers since Nebraska joined the Big Ten ... WISCONSIN 38-17.

**No. 21 Navy (plus 7) at No. 16 Notre Dame**

Interesting test for the Irish offense; best way to beat the triple-option is to score a bunch and force it to play with urgency ... NOTRE DAME 28-23.

**No. 17 Cincinnati (minus 14) at South Florida**

Bulls need two wins to become bowl eligible and it’s not looking great for coach Charlie Strong with Cincinnati, Memphis and UCF still to play ... CINCINNATI 35-14.

**No. 18 Memphis (minus 10) at Houston**

Tigers have six runs of 60 yards or more, including four of at least 70 yards, most in FBS ... MEMPHIS 45-28.

**New Mexico (plus 27½) at No. 19 Boise State**

Broncos try to keep pressure on AAC contenders in race for New Year’s Six bid ... BOISE STATE 38-7.

**No. 22 Texas (plus 6½) at Iowa State**

Cyclones have lost four games by a combined 11 points, including three by two or fewer ... IOWA STATE 35-31.

**Kansas (plus 17½) at No. 25 Oklahoma State**

Cowboys RB Chuba Hubbard is leading the nation in rushing by 33 yards per game ... OKLAHOMA STATE 48-24.

Last week: 15-6 straight; 16-4 against the spread.

Season: 187-57 straight; 134-101-6 against the spread.

Upset specials: 3-8 (straight up).

Best bets: 3-6-1 (against the spread).

MLB

# Shildt wins NL Manager of the Year days after mom’s death

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Shildt began his life in baseball at his mom’s side, tagging along with her to work at a Double-A ballpark and picking up odd jobs around the clubhouse.

When Shildt was recognized Tuesday night for the career that has followed, the late Lib Shildt was the first thing on his mind.

“My mom was remarkable,” he said.

Less than a week after his mother died, Shildt was honored for piloting the St. Louis Cardinals back into the playoffs, narrowly beating Craig Counsell of the Milwaukee Brewers to win NL Manager of the Year.

Shildt earned the award in his first full season on the job, even though Counsell received more first-place votes (13-10) from the Baseball Writers’ Association of America.

Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli won the AL prize in a tight finish over Aaron Boone of the New York Yankees.

Both received 13 first-place votes, but Baldelli got more second-place nods (13-9). The 38-year-old is the youngest to win the award.

Shildt teared up upon learning he’d

been chosen. The 51-year-old is the first manager of the year who never played pro ball, but he’s been around the game since he was a child. His mom worked as an administrative assistant for the Charlotte O’s in the Baltimore Orioles’ system, and Shildt was a regular in the clubhouse.

“Appreciative of the time and love she and my dad invested in me,” Shildt said.

Hospitalized for her final days, Shildt’s mother repeatedly told her nurses how important it was that she live until Tuesday to find out if her son had won.

“She was emotional about knowing it was likely she wasn’t going to be here,” Shildt said. “I said, ‘You know what? You’re going to know before I am.’”

“It still hasn’t sunk in in total and I don’t know if it ever will, ultimately, what that loss is going to feel like,” he added.

Shildt replaced Mike Matheny as Cardinals manager during the 2018 season, and under his steady guidance, St. Louis has been among baseball’s best teams since. The club won

91 games and the NL Central crown this year, ending the franchise’s three-year postseason drought. The Cardinals gave Shildt a contract extension through the 2022 season.

“I set my sights on being the best coach I could be just like being the best player I could be, and the journey has led me here,” Shildt said.

Atlanta’s Brian Snitker finished third after winning the award last year. The Dodgers’ Dave Roberts was fourth and Nationals manager Dave Martinez came in fifth.

Washington turned a 19-31 start into a World Series championship, but voting for the award concluded before the postseason began.

Baldelli and Shildt are the eighth and ninth managers to win this award in their first full seasons on the job.

Baldelli took over a team that won 78 games in 2018 and pushed them to 101 victories and an AL Central title. He worked tightly with Minnesota’s analytics-focused front office — a shift from predecessor Paul Molitor, who won the award in 2017 — and oversaw a turnaround powered by the team’s major league-record 307 home runs.



Family enjoys mother-in-law just fine from a distance

**DEAR ABBY:** My mother-in-law is contemplating a move to the small Southern town my husband and I have called home for more than 10 years. She's a vibrant, well-to-do Southern lady with many friends and family in the big city where she has lived her entire life. The problem is, I really don't want her to live near us. We have five children whom she constantly tries to tell me how to raise, and I'm not sure she even likes the children.

Dear Abby



I don't know why she wants to make this drastic move because she ridiculed us when we relocated. For that matter, she ridicules us about everything we do. (We are relatively normal, boring people.) My husband has stayed quiet about the situation.

How can I tell her we would prefer she stay in the big city without hurting her feelings? We visit her often, and she visits us. This arrangement has worked for many years. — Loving Our Quiet Way Of Life

**DEAR LOVING:** What exactly do you mean when you say your husband has stayed quiet about this whole situation? Do you know what is driving your mother-in-law's decision to move closer? Could she be concerned about her age and her health, and feel insecure being so far from "family"?

If it's not a health problem, then you and your husband are going to have to speak up. Your mother-in-law should be told that the two of you do not agree with her parenting advice, that you feel she has ridiculed you and your husband for years, and you would prefer that she remain where she is. And if she makes the move anyway — which she may — keep your distance.

**DEAR ABBY:** My twin sister and I are roommates. Although we usually get along well, she does one thing in particular that bothers me. When she goes out on a date (or home) with a guy she doesn't want me to know about, she lies. She'll tell me she's at a happy hour, a friend's house or still at work. I realize she doesn't have to tell me where she is 24/7, but I hate being lied to.

It scares and upsets me when midnight rolls around on a weeknight, she still hasn't returned from her "happy hour," and won't answer my texts or calls. I have told her numerous times that for safety reasons I wish she'd be honest and let me know where she's going and whom she's with. She accuses me of trying to pry into her personal life. How can I get her to see my side? — Two Sides In Virginia

**DEAR TWO SIDES:** People who keep secrets often have something to hide. If your sister were proud of what she's doing (and the men she is with), she wouldn't be so secretive. As well-intentioned as you are, you can't force her to level with you. And because of that, it might lower the stress in your life if the two of you make other living arrangements.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**  
1 English poet  
6 Like a canary  
11 Better ventilated  
12 Barked  
13 Bouquet bearers  
14 Convey  
15 Trap-shooting  
16 Sense  
17 Dormitory  
19 Gentle exercise  
23 Circulars  
26 Slowly vanish  
28 Crone  
29 Tree frog  
31 Declaim  
33 Killer whales  
34 Hardened  
35 Aunt, in Madrid  
36 Breathe hard  
39 Glove sz.  
40 Me  
42 Odds and ends, briefly  
44 Rounded projection

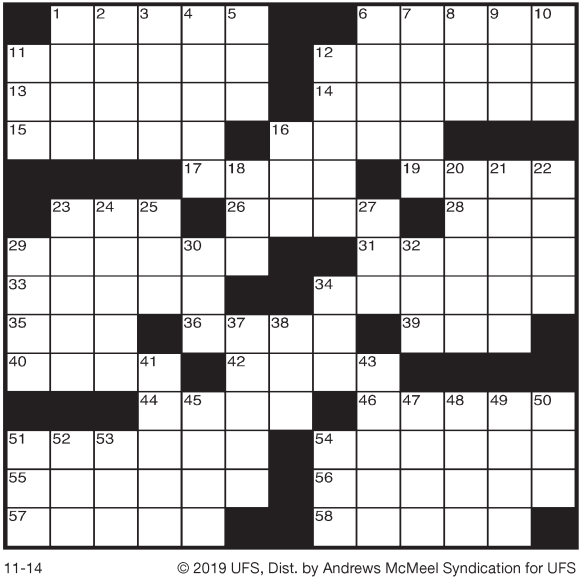
46 WWII sub (hyph.)  
51 PBS subject  
54 Pistol top  
55 Kitchen tool  
56 Offshore platform (2 wds.)  
57 Talks big  
58 Lap dogs

**DOWN**  
1 Scotty beamed him up  
2 Cleveland's lake  
3 Assistant  
4 Incisors  
5 Almost-grads  
6 Showed up  
7 Spread on  
8 Student stat  
9 Always, to the bard  
10 Insect killer  
11 Pumper's pride  
12 Bond statistic  
16 Gulf st.  
18 Kenya's loc.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

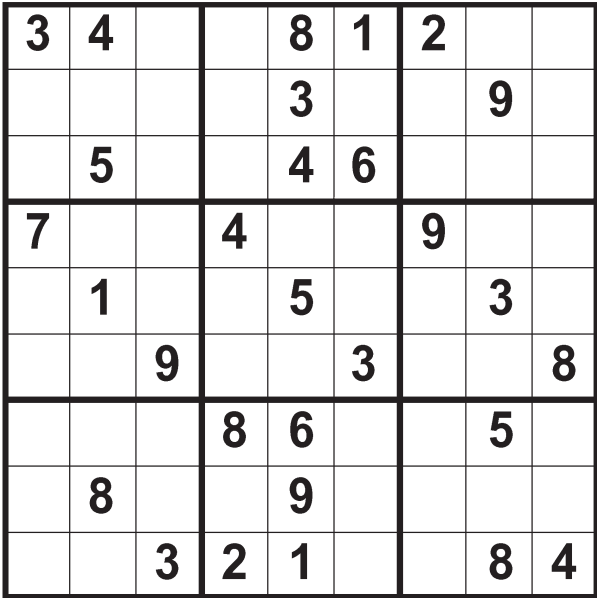


20 Chicago's airport  
21 Like some communities  
22 Like good cheddar  
23 Peregrine or condor abode  
24 Stick-on design  
25 Health resort  
27 Long, long time  
29 Cooking vessels  
30 Sixth sense  
32 Grog ingredient  
34 Uncertain-ties  
37 Palette color  
38 Hamlet's cry  
41 Tossed  
43 Charmer  
45 Mineral deposits  
47 Defraud  
48 Horrible boss  
49 "Lucky Jim" author  
50 Label  
51 Head, slangily  
52 Spring mo.  
53 Mild brew  
54 Payoff



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



11/14

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How to play:

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

9	4	1	5	6	8	7	2	3
6	5	3	7	2	1	4	8	9
2	7	8	3	4	9	5	1	6
1	2	9	8	3	7	6	4	5
4	6	7	9	5	2	1	3	8
8	3	5	4	1	6	9	7	2
7	1	2	6	9	3	8	5	4
5	8	6	2	7	4	3	9	1
3	9	4	1	8	5	2	6	7

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CUYVK

MIDAT

DOLTED

NAAABN

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



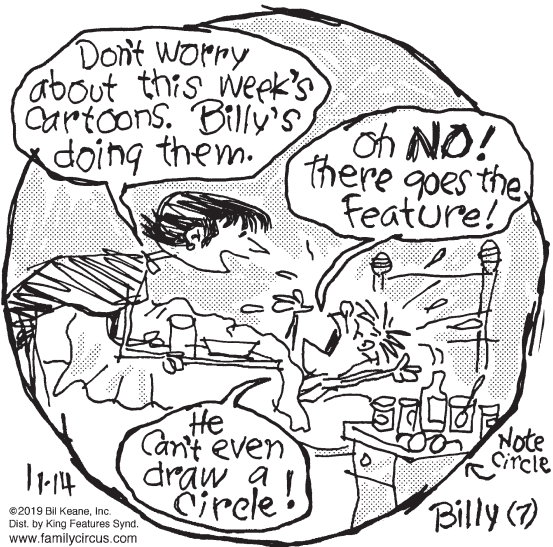
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CREST HILLY FRIGID HARDLY  
Answer: At over 4,000 feet, the Gobi Desert hikers weren't going to be — LEFT HIGH AND DRY

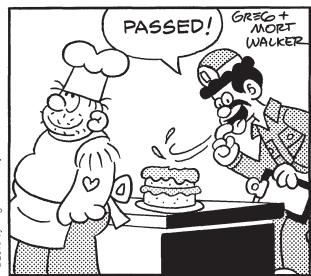
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

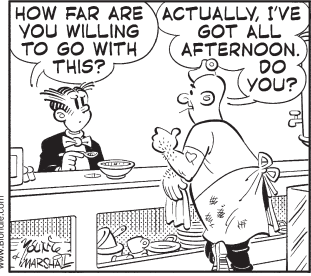
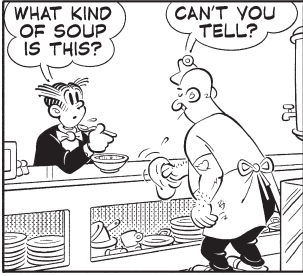


More on Daddy's sickbed escapades.

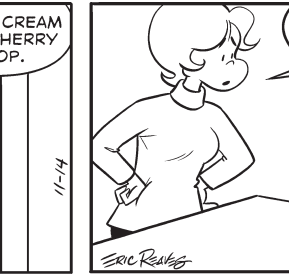
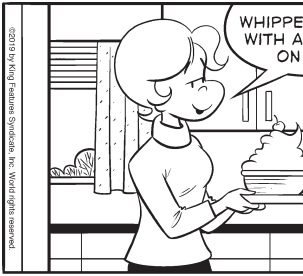
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



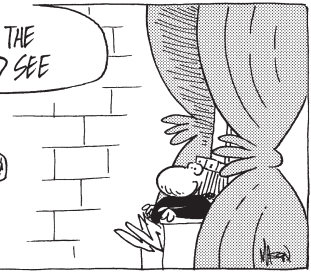
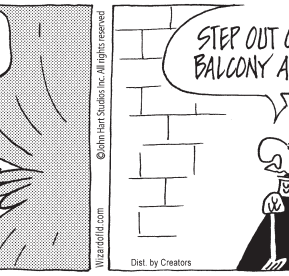
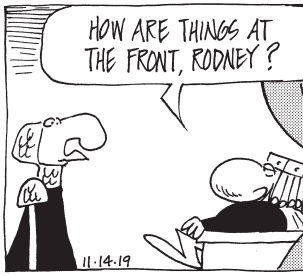
HI & LOIS



BC



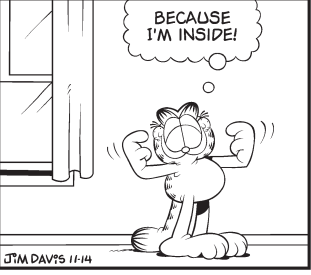
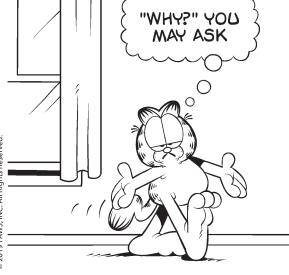
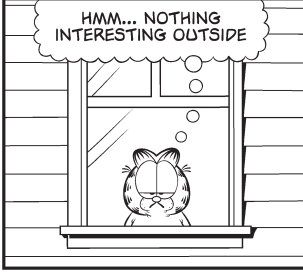
WIZARD OF ID



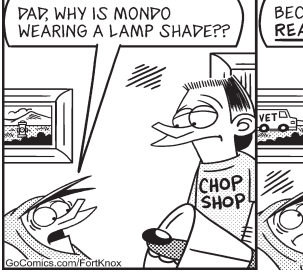
DILBERT



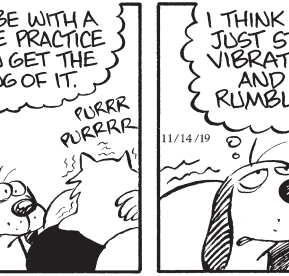
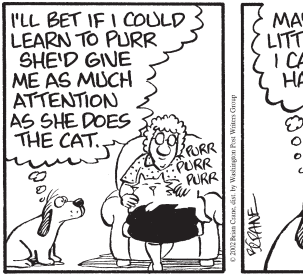
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



The church is the body of Christ on earth

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

**Q:** How strong is the Christian faith in other countries? — N.W.

**A:** The church is the body of Christ on earth. All true believers who follow Christ make up his church — and it is worldwide, even in countries where God cannot openly be worshipped.



Billy Graham

My Answer

The church isn't just a particular building or congregation but the spiritual fellowship. If we belong to Him, we also belong to each other; if we have committed our lives to Him, we are also committed to each other.

The story is told about going through immigration in Moscow. After the inspection of passports, the agent smiled at the group of Christians and pointed upward. In the midst of fierce atheism, there stood

a fellow believer in Christ.

Standing outside the Kremlin wall watching people lay wreaths as part of their annual Victory Day celebration, a man quietly stood, his chest covered with medals from his military service. Without saying a word he used the tip of his cane to draw a cross in the dirt for all to see.

Sitting on a bus in Eastern Europe, a woman raised her hand to the fogged window and traced a cross. She was communicating a common bond with other believers who were watching. What a privilege to have

the freedom to speak of our faith openly in America. But around the world this is not true in many countries, yet God has His people. They come from different races and cultures — but it seems that instantly God's people realize that there is a common bond that overcomes human barriers, drawing us together. This is the power of faith in Christ.

Throughout the world there are people who are enduring cruelties and persecution because of their Christian faith. Let's remember to pray for them faithfully.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“Z W J R L M, Y K M W J T, Y H G G L M B M X F O O / F O O D B H S F P L R B V B W Y U F O O / F J V W ' O O C L R S L M L / D B H ' P L T B R F X M W L J V.” — U F M B O L I W J T

Previous Solution: “We're stardust / We are golden / And we've got to get ourselves / Back to the garden.” — Joni Mitchell

TODAY'S CLUE: B = siesta C = quails



# Neglected heartland seen as key to Brexit-dominated election

BY JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

HARTLEPOOL, England — In Hartlepool, a tough, proud English port town whipped by bitter North Sea winds, people have long felt ignored by politicians in far-off London. But not anymore.

Political parties in Britain’s Brexit-dominated December election are battling fiercely to win Hartlepool and places like it: working-class former industrial towns with voters who could hold the key to the prime minister’s office at 10 Downing Street.

Hartlepool has elected lawmakers from the left-of-center Labour Party for more than half a century. But in 2016, almost 70 percent of voters here backed leaving the European Union. More than three years later, the U.K. is still an EU member, and loyalty to Labour has been eroded by frustration at the political gridlock.

“I’ve always been a Labour voter,” said Diane Jordan, a hypnotherapist enjoying an evening of music and bingo at the Hartlepool Working Men’s Club. “My parents were always Labour. My grandparents were always Labour.”

“I’ve never been on the Conservative side, but to me that’s looking the best option at the moment, because they’re the ones that are wanting to put Brexit through.”

That’s good news for Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who pushed for the Dec. 12 election, more than two years early, in hope of breaking Britain’s parliamentary deadlock over Brexit. He withdrew his EU

divorce deal from Parliament last month after lawmakers demanded more time to scrutinize it. If he gets a majority of the 650 House of Commons seats, he will be able to ratify the package and take Britain out of the bloc as scheduled on Jan. 31.

Johnson’s Conservatives are ahead in most opinion polls, but analysts say this election is particularly hard to predict because Brexit cuts across traditional party divides. The 2016 referendum on Britain’s EU membership split the country into two camps: leavers and remainers.

Leavers, who are concentrated in small towns and post-industrial cities across England, are eager to cut Brussels red tape, reassert British sovereignty and take control of immigration. Remainers, who most often live in big cities and university towns, would rather stay in an alliance that has eased the flow of goods, services and people across 28 nations with half a billion inhabitants.

Hartlepool, a former shipbuilding center 250 miles north of London where unemployment is more than double the national average, is a town full of leavers.

Tom O’Grady, a lecturer in political science at University College London, said Conservatives need to win seats like Hartlepool to compensate for the likely loss of pro-EU areas in southern England and Scotland.

“They’re going to have to gain seats in the north of England and the Midlands from Labour if they’re going to win a big majority,” he said.

But the Conservatives’

challenge is complicated by the insurgent Brexit Party, led by veteran euroskeptic Nigel Farage. He rejects Johnson’s deal with the EU because it would keep the U.K. bound to the bloc’s rules until the end of 2020, and possibly longer.

He’d rather leave the EU without an agreement, which would free Britain to strike new trade deals around the world. It would also, according to most economists, leave the country poorer, by imposing barriers to business with the EU, Britain’s biggest trading partner.

Farage accuses both Conservatives and Labour of watering down and delaying Brexit. Hartlepool, where the Brexit Party controls the town council, is the party’s top target in the election.

Richard Tice, the Brexit Party’s chairman and its Hartlepool candidate, argues that backing the Conservatives here is “a wasted vote.”

“The Conservatives can never win in Hartlepool. They never have done in over 60 years. They never will do,” he said.

He urged people to vote for the Brexit Party in areas held by Labour and other parties that want to stop Brexit. “Then we can make sure a proper Brexit is delivered.”

Not all Brexiteers welcome the party’s message. This week Farage — under pressure from some of his own supporters — pulled his candidates out of 317 Conservative-dominated electoral constituencies to avoid splitting the pro-Brexit vote.

He faces continued pressure to withdraw from Labour seats as well, to give

the Conservatives a better chance. So far, Farage refuses to budge, arguing that the Tories should stand aside to let the Brexit Party take on Labour in places like Hartlepool.

Labour’s complex stance on Brexit has angered some supporters. The party wants to renegotiate the divorce deal, then hold a new referendum on whether to leave the EU or remain. But Labour hopes that social issues such as crime, health care and welfare — all affected by a decade of Conservative public-spending cuts — matter more to voters than Brexit.

“People on the doorstep are talking about anything but Brexit,” said Mike Hill, who is running for re-election as the town’s Labour lawmaker. He predicted locals wouldn’t warm to Tice, a wealthy property developer from the south of England.

“The Brexit Party seem to think they can come here with some southern billionaire candidate and just waltz into the place,” Hill said. “Well, the people of Hartlepool are not fools. They can see right through that.”

No one, though, is taking Hartlepool’s voters for granted. People here are weary — and wary of politicians’ promises.

This area has had a rough few decades, and many here voted for Brexit in hope of reversing the decline.

Once-bustling shipyards are closed, though rusting hulks are reduced to scrap at a site just outside town. Most of the steelworks that once employed thousands shut down in the 1970s and 1980s.

# Chinese students flee Hong Kong as violence intensifies

BY KEN MORITSUGU  
and PATRICK QUINN  
Associated Press

HONG KONG — University students from mainland China are fleeing Hong Kong, and classes in primary and secondary schools have been suspended as clashes turn increasingly violent in the city’s 5-month-long anti-government unrest.

Marine police used a boat Wednesday to help a group of mainland students leave the Chinese University of Hong Kong, which remained barricaded by demonstrators after violent clashes with police on Tuesday.

The Technical University of Denmark urged 36 students in Hong Kong to return home, saying “some of our students have been forced to move from their dormitories because they were put on fire.”

The protests have taken on a strong anti-China bent, with radical demonstrators trashing branches of mainland banks, China’s official Xinhua News Agency and restaurant chains whose owners support the Beijing government.

Hong Kong is part of China but has its own legal system and greater freedoms than the mainland. The protesters say those freedoms are under threat from a city government that is beholden to Beijing. China says the protesters are rioters who want to break away from Chinese rule.

For the third day in a row, protesters caused major train service disruptions, blocked streets and rallied in the central business district. They hunkered down for expected clashes with police at university campuses.

Mainland students have said in online posts that they are being targeted by protesters who have broken into their dormitories, spray-painted insults on walls and banged on their doors, the Beijing Evening News reported.

Many are taking advantage of a program that offers a week of free accommodation in one of a dozen hotels and hostels in the neighboring mainland city of Shenzhen, Chinese media reported.

The “Grads Home” service was established in 2013 to provide short-term accommodations for recent graduates looking for jobs in the tech hub.

Many subway and rail stations were closed after protesters threw debris on tracks and vandalized train cars. University classes remained suspended.

Hong Kong Baptist University told students that instruction and exams would be conducted online for the two remaining weeks of the semester, with arrangements for students who have returned to the mainland to join in.

The Education Bureau said initially that parents could decide whether

to keep their children at home, then later announced that classes at primary and secondary schools would be suspended Thursday for safety reasons.

Describing the situation as outrageous, the bureau said students should stay at home “and must not participate in any unlawful activities.”

Many of the masked protesters are thought to be high school and university students.

Police subdued a few protesters as a crowd gathered for a third straight day in a central business and high-end retail district, public broadcaster RTHK reported. Protesters and police remained in the area, and office workers watched from the sidewalks.

At the Chinese University of Hong Kong, students and others readied for another possible clash with police. Gasoline bombs and fires lit up parts of the campus Tuesday night, as police battled back with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Police said that over the course of Tuesday, police fired 1,567 tear gas canisters, 1,312 rubber bullets and 380 beanbag rounds. A total of 142 people were arrested and 10 people were taken to hospitals with injuries.

Security Secretary John Lee said the use of force at Chinese University was needed because protesters were dropping objects onto a roadway below.

“The police have a duty to ensure that this public safety is maintained,” he told reporters. “That is why they had to ensure that they would take charge of this bridge, which previously was occupied by the mobsters.”

Groups of riot police were deployed around central Hong Kong and its outlying territories to try to contain new violence. Many students at Chinese University on the outskirts of the sprawling metropolis were armed with gasoline bombs while some carried bows and arrows.

“We are afraid the police will come to attack our home and our school, and we have to protect our home and our school,” said one student, who gave his name as X Chan.

The university’s student union president, Jacky So, appealed for an injunction from the High Court to ban police from entering the campus without a warrant or the school’s approval. Police raided the campus and fired tear gas and used a water cannon late Tuesday.

The injunction would also block police from using crowd control weapons, such as tear gas and rubber bullets, at the university. A decision was expected late Wednesday.

The city’s religious leaders appealed Wednesday for an end to the violence and called on both police and protesters to show restraint.

# Venice ‘on its knees’ after second-worst flood ever recorded

BY COLLEEN BARRY  
and LUCA BRUNO  
Associated Press

VENICE, Italy — The worst flooding in Venice in more than 50 years prompted calls Wednesday to better protect the historic city from rising sea levels as officials calculated hundreds of millions of euros in damage.

The water reached 6.14 feet above sea level Tuesday, the second-highest level ever recorded in the city and just 2½ inches lower than the historic 1966 flood. Another wave of exceptionally high water followed Wednesday.

“Venice is on its knees,” Mayor Luigi Brugnaro said on Twitter. “St. Mark’s Basilica has sustained serious damage, like the entire city and its islands.”

One death was blamed on the flooding, on the barrier island of Pellestrina. A man in his 70s was apparently electrocuted when he tried to start a pump in his dwelling, said Danny Carrella, an official on the island of 3,500 inhabitants.

In Venice, the crypt beneath St. Mark’s Basilica was inundated for only the second time in its history, as water entered through the windows and past all protections. Damage was

also reported at the Ca’ Pesaro modern art gallery, where a short circuit set off a fire, and at La Fenice theater, where authorities turned off electricity as a precaution after the control room was flooded.

Tourists floated suitcases through St. Mark’s Square, where officials removed walkways to prevent them from floating away. The water was so high that nothing less than thigh-high boots afforded protection. Water poured through wooden boards that shop and hotel owners have previously placed in front of doors to hold back water during flooding. Tourists staying on the ground floor of hotels were forced to move to upper floors overnight.

“I have often seen St. Mark’s Square covered with water,” Venice’s patriarch, Monsignor Francesco Moraglia, told reporters. “Yesterday there were waves that seemed to be the seashore.”

Brugnaro said damage would reach hundreds of millions of euros, and he called on Rome to declare a state of emergency. Premier Giuseppe Conte was due to visit the city later Wednesday.

“We are not just talking about calculating the damage,

but of the very future of the city,” Brugnaro told reporters. “Because the population drain also is a result of this.”

The flooding was caused by heavy rains coinciding with a full moon that brought high tides that were pushed into Venice by southerly winds. At the same time, rising sea levels because of climate change make the city built amid a system of canals even more vulnerable.

Damage included five ferries that serve as water buses, a critical means of transportation.

Photos on social media showed a city ferry, taxi boats and gondolas grounded on walkways flanking canals. At least 60 boats were damaged, according to civil protection authorities.

Pellestrina was one of the worst hit areas. Facing the sea, water came over the banks of the canal and filled the island like a basin. Carrella said more than 3 feet of water remained Wednesday because of broken pumps.

Brugnaro blamed climate change for the “dramatic situation” and called for a speedy completion of a long-delayed project to construct offshore barriers.

# Bolivia’s declared interim president faces challenges

BY LUIS ANDRES HENAO  
and CARLOS VALDEZ  
Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia — Bolivia’s newly declared interim president, until now a second-tier lawmaker, faces the challenge of winning recognition, stabilizing the nation and quickly organizing national elections at a time of bloody political disputes that pushed the nation’s first indigenous leader to fly into self-exile in Mexico after 14 years in power.

A sense of normalcy returned to the capital on Wednesday, a day after Jeanine Añez claimed the presidency after higher-ranking successors to the post resigned.

Most roadblocks set up by ousted president Evo Morales’ foes were removed and public transportation resumed in La Paz, which has been rocked by weeks of protests. Still, large crowds

of Morales’ supporters demonstrated against Añez, taking to the streets of the capital and its sister city of El Alto, a Morales stronghold, waving the multicolored indigenous flag and chanting “Now, civil war!” Police fired tear gas to disperse the groups of stone-throwing demonstrators.

“We don’t want any dictators. This lady has stepped on us — that’s why we’re so mad,” said Paulina Luchampe. “We’re going to fight with our brothers and sister until Evo Morales is back. We ask for his return. He needs to put the house in order.”

According to the constitution, an interim president has 90 days to organize an election, and the disputed accession of Añez, who until Tuesday was second-vice president of the Senate, was an example of the long list of obstacles she faces. Morales’ backers, who hold a two-thirds majority in Congress,

boycotted the session she called to formalize her claim to the presidency, preventing a quorum.

Still, she took power anyway, saying the constitution did not specifically require congressional approval. “My commitment is to return democracy and tranquility to the country,” she said. “They can never again steal our vote.”

Bolivia’s top constitutional court issued a statement late Tuesday laying out the legal justification for Añez taking the presidency — without mentioning her by name.

But other legal experts challenged the legal technicalities that led to her claim, saying at least some of the steps required Congress to meet.

And the lingering questions could affect her ability to govern.

Eduardo Gamarra, a Bolivian political scientist at Florida International University, said the constitution clearly

states that Añez didn’t need a congressional vote to assume the presidency. Even so, “the next two months are going to be extraordinarily difficult for President Añez,” he said.

“It doesn’t seem likely” that Morales’ party “will accept her as president,” said Jennifer Cyr, an associate professor of political science and Latin American studies at the University of Arizona. “So the question of what happens next remains — still quite unclear and extremely worrying.”

She will need to form a new electoral court, find non-partisan staff for the electoral tribunal and get Congress, which is controlled by Morales’ Movement for Socialism Party, to vote on a new election. And all of it must be done before Jan. 22, when Morales’ current term was to end.

Morales resigned Sunday following weeks of violent

protests fed by allegations of electoral fraud in the Oct. 20 election, which he claimed to have won. An Organization of American States audit reported widespread irregularities in the vote count and called for a new election.

But his decision came only after Gen. Williams Kaliman, the armed forces commander, urged him to step down “for the good of Bolivia” — a move that Morales and his backers have branded a coup d’état.

The 60-year-old former leader, who arrived in Mexico on Tuesday under a grant of asylum, has vowed to remain active in politics. He decried Añez’s “self-proclamation” as an affront to constitutional government. “Bolivia is suffering an assault on the power of the people,” he said in a Twitter post Tuesday night.

But at a news conference in Mexico City on Wednesday, he took a more conciliatory tone, urging a national

dialogue with oversight by “friendly” countries and international organizations. He also called on police and the military to abstain from violence. “Don’t get stained with the blood of the people,” he said.

Although Añez met with Kaliman and was greeted Wednesday by members of the police force, it was uncertain how much support she could count on from other Bolivian power centers.

Still, she received a boost of international support on Wednesday.

Michael G. Kozak of the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs welcomed her as “interim constitutional president,” saying on Twitter: “We look forward to working with her & Bolivia’s other civilian authorities as they arrange free & fair elections as soon as possible, in accordance w/ Bolivia’s constitution.”



